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peace and conflict studies

pcs 304

QUESTION: list The variants of peace and conflict studies:

There are many variants of nonviolence being practiced around the world today, many originated from schools of thought such as Gandhian school of thought or the shapian school of thought however, for the purpose of this assignment, I will be limiting their number to 10 namely

-Non-violent resistance and direct action\*

-Non-resistance\*

-Active reconciliation

-Moral resistance\*

-Selective non-violence \*

-Passive resistance\*

-Peaceful resistance

-The concept of Satyagraha\*

-Non-violent revolution \*

-Pacifism\*

1.Non-violent resistance and direct action: are techniques outside of institutionalized behaviour for social change that challenges an unjust power dynamic using methods of protest, noncooperation, and intervention without the use or threat of injurious force. Direct action originated as a political activist term for economic and political acts in which the actors use their power (e.g. economic or physical) to directly reach certain goals of interest Both direct action and actions appealing to others can include nonviolent and violent activities which target persons, groups, or property deemed offensive to the action participants. The aim of direct action is to either obstruct another political agent or political organization from performing some practice to which the activists object, or to solve perceived problems which traditional societal institutions are not addressing to the satisfaction of the direct-action participants. Nonviolent resistance is largely but wrongly taken as synonymous with civil disobedience but in reality civil disobedience is a form of political action which necessarily aims at reform, rather than revolution: its efforts are typically directed at the disputing of particular laws or group of laws, while conceding the authority of the government responsible for them.

2.Non-resistance: according to oxford dictionary it is the practice or principle of not resisting authority, even when it is unjustly exercised. Nonresistance is often associated with religious groups. Sometimes non-resistance has been compatible with, even part of, movements advocating social change. An example is the movement led by Mohandas Gandhi in the struggle for Indian Independence. While it is true that in certain instances (e.g., when threatened with arrest or violence) practitioners in such movements might follow the line of non-resistance, such movements are more accurately described as cases of nonviolent resistance or civil resistance.

3. Satyagraha: literally translated into truth force, it was created by ghandi by adapting Hindu teachings and transforming it into a form of non-violence He deployed satyagraha in the Indian independence movement and during his earlier struggles in South Africa for Indian rights, the Satyagraha movement was a movement by which the Indians refused to buy imported products and refused British employment and education. Satyagraha theory influenced Martin Luther King Jr.'s and James Bevel's campaigns during the Civil Rights Movement in the United States, and many other social justice and similar movements. In his teachings of satyagraha nonviolence he explained satyagraha as a way of life rather than a means to an end, it showed passivism not as inaction but refusal to adopt violence, it was therefore meant as the weapon of the strongest and excludes the use of violence in any shape or form. In summary the achievement of political and moral ends through ahimsa is what Gandhi called satyagraha, 'truth force' or non-violent action, which is not passive or sullen. It calls for courage, strength of character and positive contribution to a righteous cause. Gandhi's doctrine of non-violence is absolute.

4. Moral resistance: it involves systematizing, defending, the ethical resistance of the powerless it means that our capacity to exert power over the powerless is therefore what imposes unenforceable obligations on us as human beings, human beings consider themselves to be moral and rational beings and will refuse to commit atrocities on the basis of morality an example can be seen in the rules of engagement in which we have given ourselves, as a way to prevent committing crimes against other human beings, people will always resist when certain actions contradict their claims to morality for example a Christian man can refuse to fight back based on the bible verse that says “ turn the other cheek” and so on a Muslim man refuses to drink alcohol on the basis that the noble Quran abolishes it

5. Passive resistance: according to oxford dictionary it is non-violent opposition to authority, especially a refusal to cooperate with legal requirements. Passive Resistance was conceived as a weapon of the weak and does not exclude the use of physical force or violence for the purpose of gaining one's end. It is also known as a method of nonviolent protest against laws or policies in order to force a change or secure concessions; it is also known as nonviolent resistance and is the main tactic of civil disobedience. Passive resistance typically involves such activities as mass demonstrations, refusal to obey or carry out a law or to pay taxes, the occupation of buildings or the blockade of roads, labor strikes, economic boycotts, and similar activities.

6.Selective nonviolence: it is characterized by refusal to participate in violent conflicts particularly international wars. In certain other situations the same persons would be willing to use violence to achieve their objectives, in selective non-violence practitioners resort to violence if it better serves to achieve a goal, this means to them it’s a means to an end, it originated from gene sharp and evolved into the sharpian school of thought. Another term by which selective nonviolence can be called is relative passivism as opposed to the Ghandian school of thought which is absolute passivism

7. Non-violent revolution: A nonviolent revolution is a revolution using mostly campaigns with civil resistance, including various forms of nonviolent protest, to bring about the departure of governments seen as entrenched and authoritarian. While many campaigns of civil resistance are intended for much more limited goals than revolution, generally a nonviolent revolution is characterized by simultaneous advocacy of democracy, human rights, and national independence in the country concerned. In some cases, a campaign of civil resistance with a revolutionary purpose may be able to bring about the defeat of a dictatorial regime only if it obtains a degree of support from the armed forces, or at least their benevolent neutrality.

8.Pacifism: is opposition to war, militarism or violence. The word pacifism was brought about by the French peace campaigner Émile Arnaud and adopted by other peace activists at the tenth Universal Peace Congress in Glasgow in 1901. ahimsa which means to do no harm is closely related to passivism, which is a core philosophy in Indian Religions such as Hinduism and was also wildly employed by mahatma Ghandi in is teachings of satyagraha Mohandas Gandhi (1869–1948) propounded the practice of steadfast nonviolent opposition which he called "satyagraha", instrumental in its role in the Indian Independence Movement. Pacifism as a concept covers a wide range of views, including the belief that international disputes can and should be peacefully resolved, calls for the abolition of the institutions of the military and war, opposition to any organization of society through governmental force (anarchist or libertarian pacifism), rejection of the use of physical violence to obtain political, economic or social goals, the obliteration of force, and opposition to violence under any circumstance, even defense of self and others.

9.Active reconciliation: it refers to the non-violence of the group favoring the use of active good will and reconciliation which is based upon principle. It refers not only to outward actions but to personal reconciliation and improvement of one’s own life before attempting to change others. Its practitioners seek to accomplish a positive alteration in the attitude and policy of the group or person responsible for some undesirable situation but they never use coercion not even non-violent coercion (bribery, blackmail etc.)

10. Peaceful resistance: Peaceful resistance is a method of conducting conflicts and achieving social, political or economic changes is largely but wrongly taken as synonymous with civil disobedience. But each of these term peaceful resistance and civil disobedience has different meanings and commitments, Nonviolent action differs from pacifism by potentially being proactive and interventionist. This means that peaceful resistance is not inaction rather it is the refusal to resort to violence while resisting opposition in peaceful resistance methods such as strikes, sit-ins, non-violent protest, lobbying etc. are employed to achieve peaceful objective examples of non-violent resistance in history include the Martin Luther king civil rights movement in America and the Mahatma Ghandi movement to end colonialism in india.